



PROPOSED GOALS & PRIORITIES FOR 2016-2017

This document is being shared in an effort to obtain public input into the Proposed Goals & Priorities for Indiana Disability Rights to focus on from October 2016 – September 2017.

Please send any questions, comments, or requests for accommodation to ExecutiveDirector@IndianaDisabilityRights.Org.

You may also respond to a survey regarding this proposal here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDRPublicComments2016>.

Please also like us on Facebook at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDRPublicComments2016> and follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/INDisRts> to learn about public meetings around the state where you will have another opportunity to comment.

Public comments will be accepted from June 1, 2016 – August 15, 2016. A final draft will be posted by August 20 and a public hearing will be held at the Indiana Disability Rights office on August 27, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

GOAL 1: PREVENTING, FINDING, AND STOPPING ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

1. Ensure appropriate mental health treatment of facility residents.
2. Investigate and eliminate staff abuse in facilities or by a service provider.
3. Reduce and eliminate staff and medical neglect in facilities or by a service provider.
4. Identify and stop the financial exploitation of individuals with disabilities.
5. Stop the inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion in facilities or by a service provider.

Equality Through Advocacy

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GOAL 2: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS AND ENSURING SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENSURE EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN SOCIETY.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

1. Ensure access to a free appropriate public ***education*** in both a safe and least restrictive environment.
2. Support integrated, community-based, and competitive ***employment*** of persons with disabilities.
3. Address rights issues in regards to ***accessibility*** including, but not limited to: physical access, web and technology access, transportation, voting, and conditional rights.
4. Encourage ***community integration*** of persons with disabilities into inclusive, livable, supportive communities.
5. Ensure persons with disabilities, from youth through adulthood, are treated appropriately in ***justice*** settings.

GOAL 3: EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES BY SERVING AS A PARTNER IN RIGHTS ISSUES, PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR SELF-ADVOCACY AND BY BRINGING AWARENESS TO SOCIETY TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION.

PRIORITIES TO ADDRESS:

1. Promote the self-advocacy movement in Indiana.
2. Educate legislators regarding the impact of policies on people with disabilities.
3. Support the development and dissemination of accessible publications and electronic resources.
4. Outreach to inform underserved groups of Protection & Advocacy services and self-advocacy resources.
5. Meaningfully engage with community partners on issues impacting people with disabilities.

PROPOSED Systemic Actions

This year we are also requesting feedback on proposed projects for systemic action. These projects are designed to tackle a larger issue that impacts a group of people. These projects can be more challenging than individual case advocacy, but often result in positive change for hundreds or even thousands of people!



Please provide your feedback on these proposed actions in the same manner as you choose to do for the proposed goals and priorities. You may also complete the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDRPublicComments2016> to select those areas that you feel most strongly about or to tell us about something we may have missed. Thank you!

ABUSE & NEGLECT

- Investigate effectiveness of state programs designed to protect people from abuse.
- Investigate facilities that treat adults for aging, mental illness, and developmental disabilities.
- Investigate facilities that treat children for mental illness and developmental disabilities.
- Investigate the use of professional guardians by facilities for persons served by the facility.
- Review policies of State Operated Facilities for consistency.
- Seek to develop a state registry that identifies staff who were fired for substantiated abuse and neglect.

ACCESSIBILITY

- Address accessibility at voting registration and polls.
- Confirm neighborhood and community sidewalks are accessible.
- Ensure accessible parking spaces are readily available in communities.
- Ensure community events are accessible.
- Ensure public transportation options are accessible and available.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

- Address issues in Medicaid reform, Medicaid waivers, and Home & Community Based Services plans.
- Assist people living in a facility to move into the community.
- Educate stakeholders of alternatives to guardianship (such as supported decision making).
- Examine access to health care in rural areas.
- Examine the issues impacting people with autism who also have mental illness.
- Reduce discrimination and accessibility issues in housing for people with disabilities.



EDUCATION

- Ensure that students are not inappropriately segregated out of the general school setting due to a behavioral problem or disability.
- Investigate schools for compliance with laws regarding the use of restraint and seclusion on students with disabilities.
- Participate in the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 to ensure students with disabilities in Indiana are held to appropriate educational standards.
- Review the options for students in transition from school to work or college to ensure meaningful choice.
- Seek a change in restraint and seclusion laws to ensure schools are held accountable.

EMPLOYMENT

- Address the use of sheltered workshops and sub-minimum wage pay.
- Examine employment discrimination in areas of HIV outbreak in Indiana.
- Have a role in impacting Employment First legislation in Indiana.
- Research assistive technology vendors and determine quality standards of provided tools.
- Review employment practices that lead to stigma against applicants and workers with mental illness.
- Work with the centers for independent living (INSILC) to ensure access to independent living tools.
- Work with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) on issues that impact the ability of persons with disabilities to obtain employment through VR services.

JUSTICE

- Ensure offenders in local jails are provided appropriate mental health and medical treatment.
- Ensure offenders with disabilities have opportunity for employment and education to assist with transition back into the community.
- Improve access to assistive technology and interpreters to inmates in jails and prisons.
- Participate in issues related to school-to-prison pipeline concerns.
- Support the prosecution of cases involving crimes against people with disabilities.